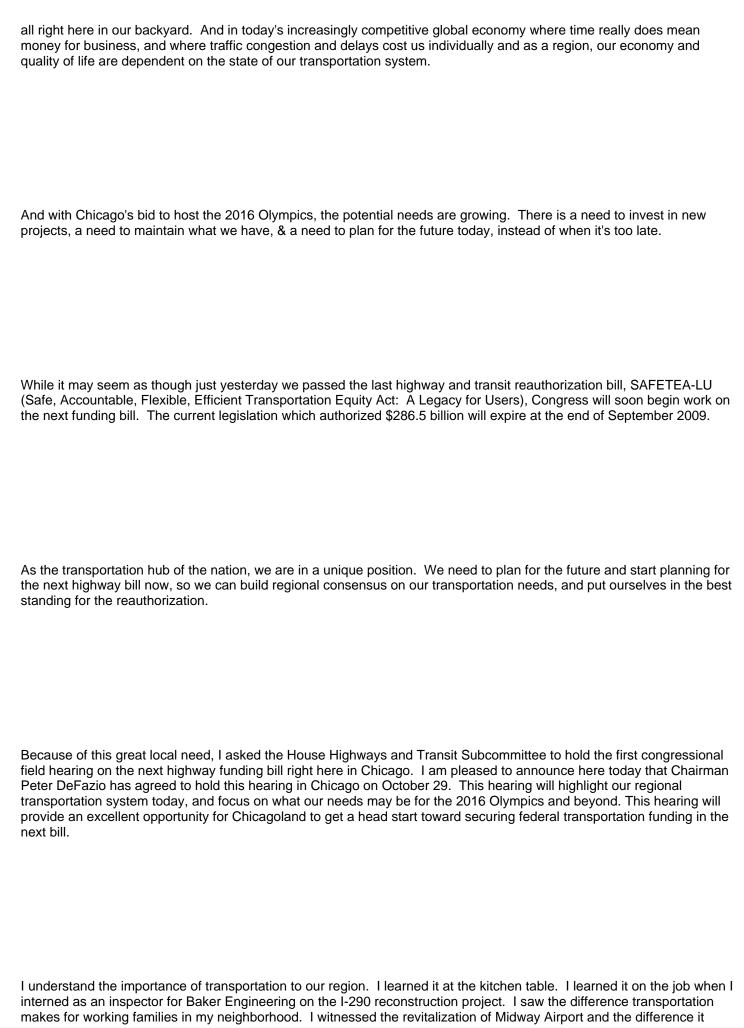
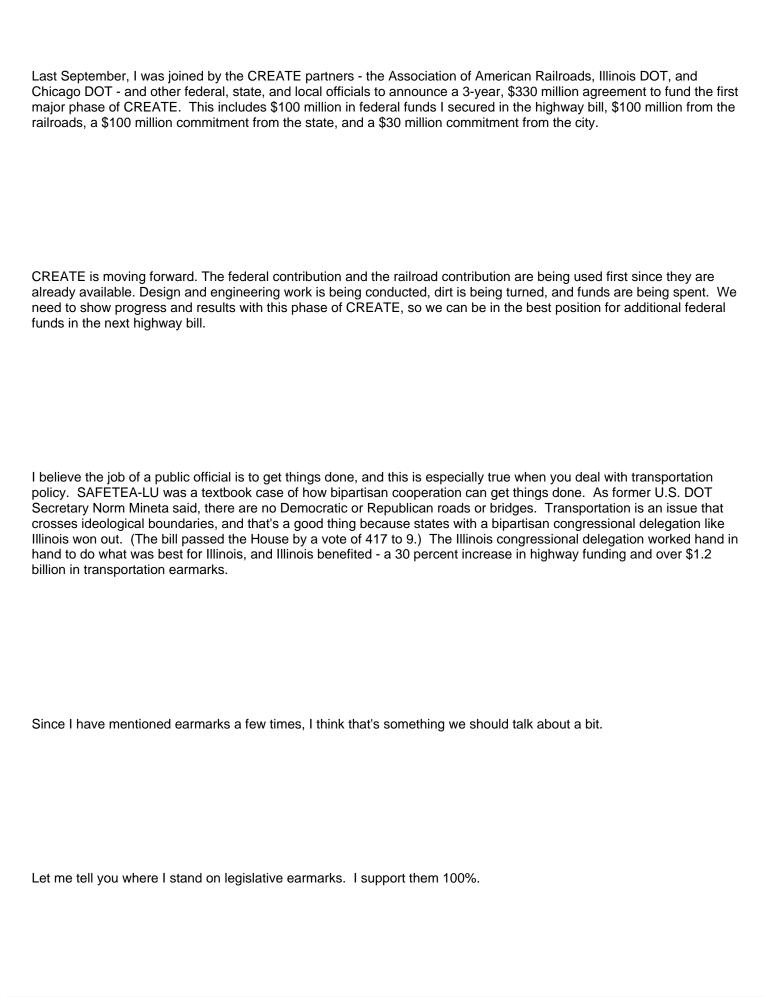
(September 17, 2007) City Club Speech on Transportation
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Congressman Dan Lipinski
City Club Speech on Transportation
Monday September 17, 2007
Almost a century ago, Carl Sandburg described Chicago as the "Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler." That's no less true today. But in addition to being a rail hub, Chicago is now also an aviation and highway hub. Transportation is - metaphorically and literally - what keeps our region moving.
From 1833 when Chicago was first incorporated as a town of 350 residents, to the robust metropolitan region of today with over 8 million people, transportation has played a key role in shaping Chicagoland.
In the mid-1800's, the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the Chicago & Galena Union Railroad began fueling the growth that transformed Chicago from a sleepy outpost town to the thriving metropolis we live in today.

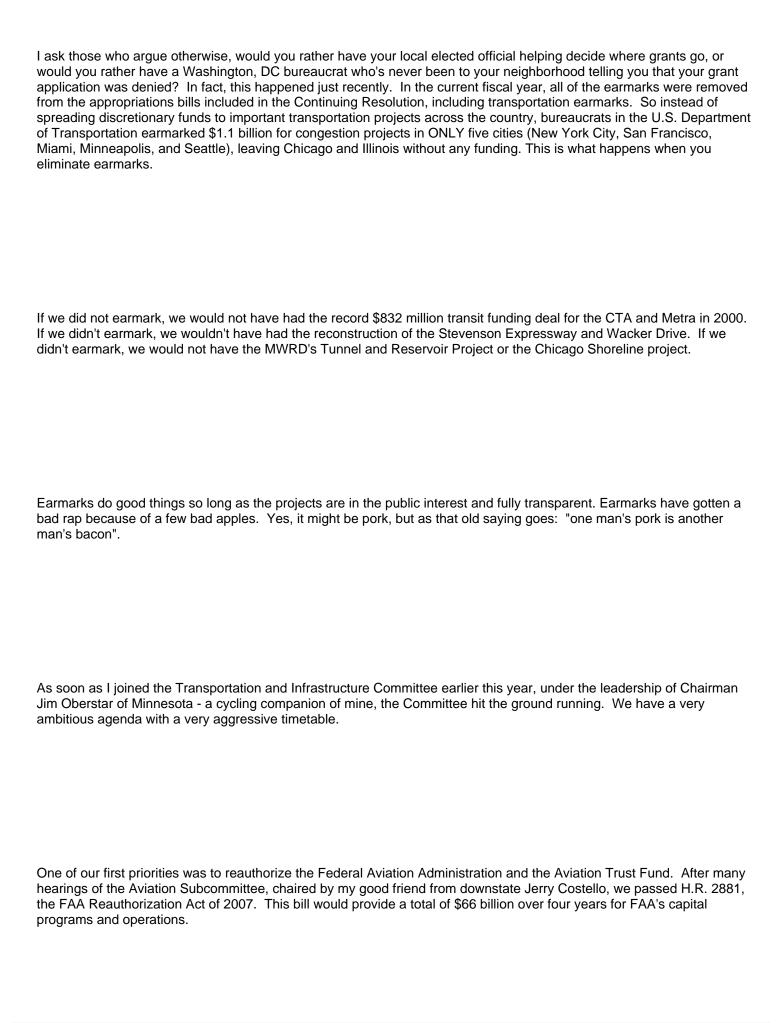
Chicago IS the transportation hub of the nation. From highways to transit to aviation to railroads to waterways, we have it

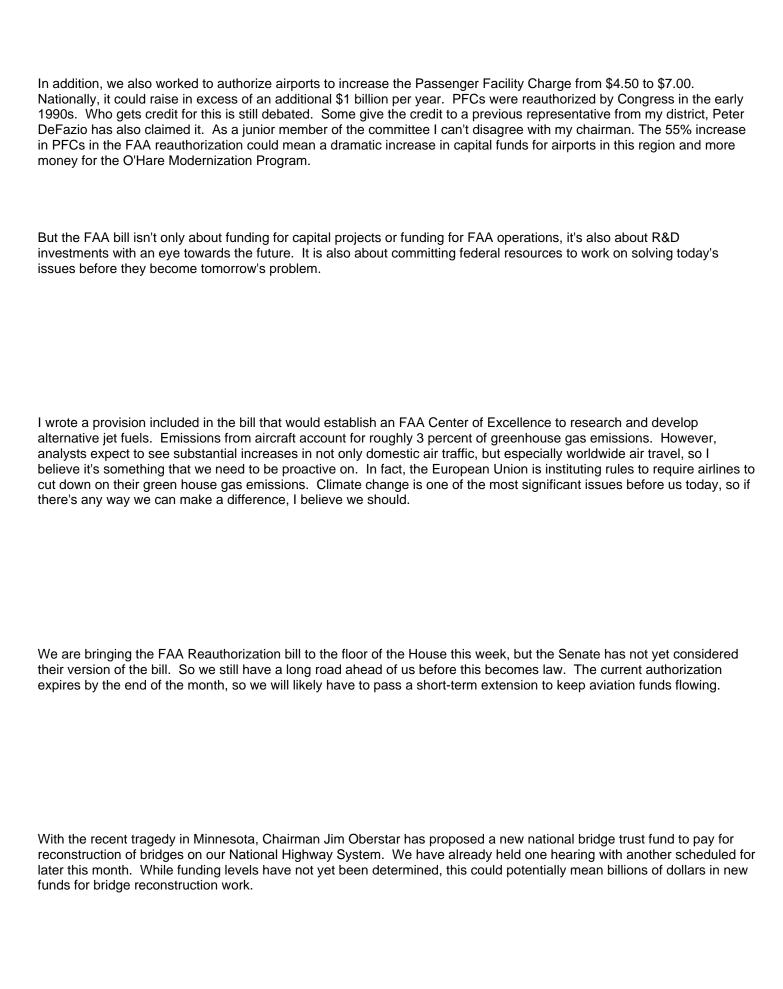
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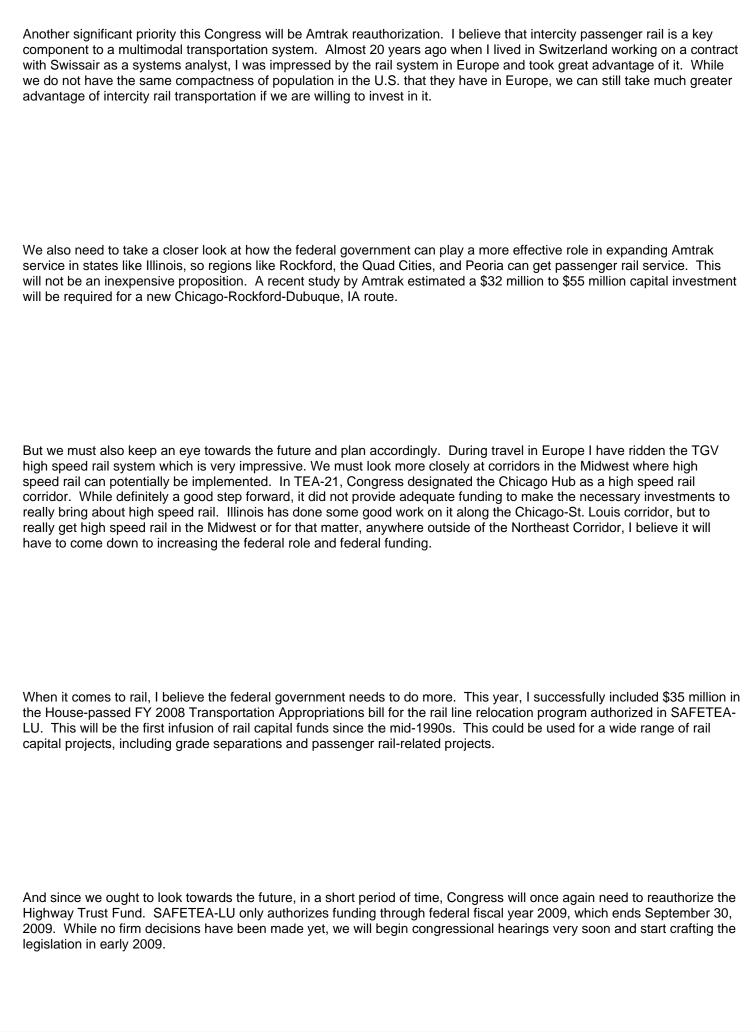


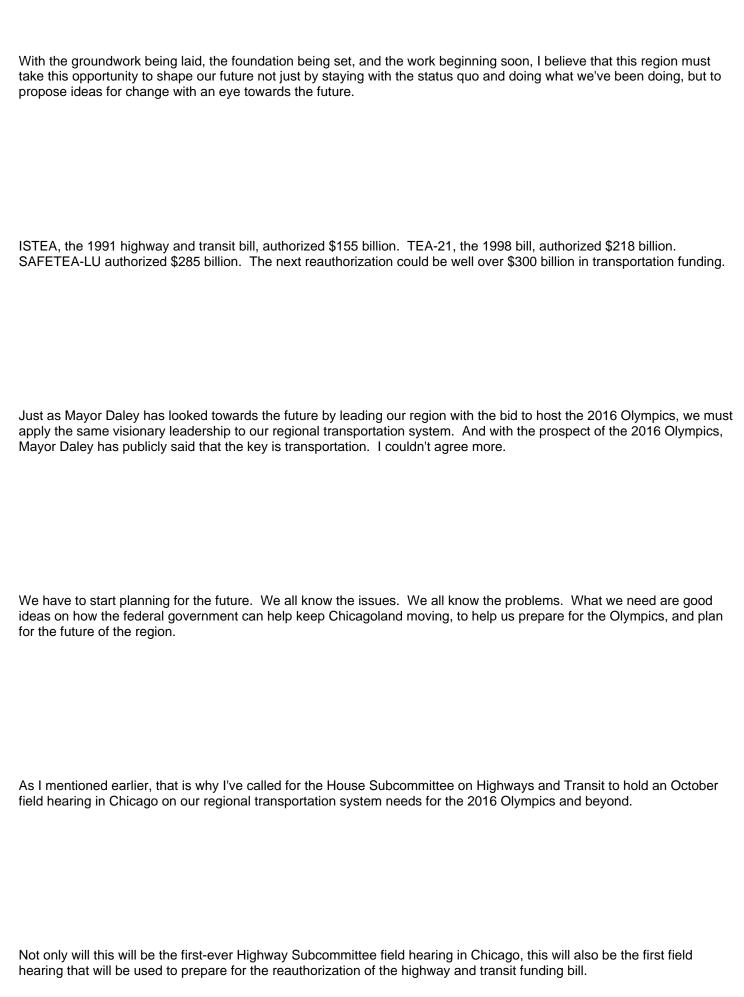
made to my neighborhood, our region, and our economy. And I remember the day the Orange Line opened and how happy people were to have an affordable and easy way to get to work downtown.
I learned that transportation has a direct impact on everyone's life on a daily basis, and on our economy.
Given how important transportation is to my district, the region, and the state, when I was elected to Congress in 2004, I made it a top priority to secure a seat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
As you probably know, the Transportation Committee writes the laws that dole out federal transportation funds and regulate every single mode of transportation in this country. In Congress, committees handle most of the legislative work and to have seat on a committee, you have a seat at the table when legislation is being hammered out. And when the legislation deals with transportation, it becomes even more critical, especially for us in Chicagoland.
Despite my strong efforts to get on the committee, it didn't happen in my first term. However, I was still able to focus my efforts on the reauthorization of the surface transportation funding bill.
I was pleased to successfully secure over \$125 million for a variety of surface transportation projects in SAFETEA-LU, including a \$100 million earmark for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency program, also known as CREATE. This innovative rail modernization project will help alleviate the rail bottleneck in Chicagoland to help benefit commuters and businesses here and across the country. CREATE was one of only a handful of projects specifically designated by Congress in SAFTEA-LU as a project of national and regional significance.











And just as the 1893 World's Fair put Chicago on the world's map and left a legacy in Chicago, I believe that the 2016 Olympics can leave an important transportation legacy here in Chicagoland. And with the upcoming reauthorization bill, the time to start planning is now.
Transportation is our history, and for this generation, it can be our legacy to the future as well.